Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

READ—

Government Order No. 7332-72—Med. 89-06-57, dated the 24th February 1910, prescribing rules regarding medical attendance on Government Officers, etc., and fees for attendance.

2. Correspondence ending with letter No. G. 305, dated the 27th January 1915, from the Senior Surgeon in the matter of a proposal to levy fees in Hospitals and Dispensaries in the State, from persons who can afford to pay for medical relief.

No. 3820-70—MED. 231-13-4, DATED, BANGALORE, THE 26TH NOVEMBER 1915.

ORDER.—With the growth of population and the recognition by the people of the advantages of skilled medical treatment, there has been an increasing need for a large number of hospitals and dispensaries and for their better equipment, and the expenditure on medical relief has been rapidly growing. The existing practice of providing medical advice and hospital treatment free of charge to rich and poor alike, was introduced at a time when medical institutions were few, and it was necessary to popularize them, and demonstrate to the public the advantages of scientific medical treatment. These reasons no longer exist and an indefinite continuance of the practice would hamper the normal expansion of the Medical Department and injure the interests of the deserving poor, who alone have a claim to gratuitous treatment.

2. The need to modify this practice was felt so far back as 1893, when a set of rules were issued authorising the levy of fees for prescriptions made up for persons who could afford to pay; but for some reason the rules were not generally brought into force. Government are of opinion that the time has arrived for introducing the system of levying fees tentatively in the institutions in the cities of Bangalore and Mysore, especially as this system has been working well in the British Indian Provinces.

3. They are therefore pleased to issue the rules given in the Appendix which will be adopted in all the hospitals and dispensaries in the cities of Bangalore and Mysore, tentatively for a period of three years with effect from 1st January 1916. These rules are not, however, intended to affect those issued with the Government Order of 24th February 1910 read above.

4. The Senior Surgeon is requested to submit at the close of each official year a report on the working of the rules herein prescribed.

D. M. NARASINGA RAO,
Secretary to Government,
General Department.

To—The Senior Surgeon in Mysore.
Other Heads of Departments.
Deputy Commissioners of Districts.
Presidents of the Bangalore and Mysore City Municipal Councils.

APPENDIX.

RULES TO REGULATE THE LEVY OF FEES FROM PATIENTS RESORTING TO PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES FOR TREATMENT.

1. Persons whose monthly income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 50 and their dependants will be considered as poor for the purposes of these rules and will be entitled to free medical advice and treatment in all hospitals and dispensaries, whether they are maintained from Provincial, Municipal or Local Funds.